

# 2019 Water Quality REPORT



Based on data from the calendar year 2018

## Message From The EPA:

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4797)**.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline**.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). The City of Forest Grove will provide up to two free Lead tests per household for customers of Forest Grove Water. Please contact the City of Forest Grove Engineering Dept. at **503-992-3228** for details.



## Why Provide This Report?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

*Contaminants that may be present in source water include:*

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.



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## Definitions

**AL/Action Level** – concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL/Maximum Contaminant Level** – highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**MCLG/Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** – level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL/Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG/Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal** – level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA** Not Applicable

**NR** Not Regulated by EPA.

**ND** Not Detected

**NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**TT** Treatment Technique – a required process intended to reduce a contaminant level in drinking water.



## Monitoring Program Violation

In August, our contracted laboratory was late reporting a test result to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and, as a result, we received a reporting violation. The missing test result was reported to OHA in September and we were returned to compliance. At no time during this period was the quality of the city's water compromised or public health at risk.

## Source Water Assessment

This is to notify customers that the **Source Water Assessment** is available, which includes a brief summary of source water susceptibility based on the findings.

The main source water susceptibility in the assessment was that increased erosion from harvesting operations could cause runoff and increase the likelihood of landslides. Please see the

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT** and the **FOREST GROVE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN** which will show how we are addressing our source water vulnerabilities.



Forest Grove wants our valued residents to be informed about the water we drink.

## WATER QUALITY DATA 2018

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

### Turbidity & Bacteriological Results

Substance (Units) (ppm=parts per million)	MCLG [MRDLG]	MCL [MRDL]	Forest Grove Water (Low-High)	JWC (Low-High)	Violation?	Typical Source
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT <sup>1</sup>	0.08 (0.01-0.08)	0.43 (0.02-0.43)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity Samples (<0.3NTU)	NA	TT <sup>1</sup>	100%	97% (97%-100%)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.95 (0.03-0.95)	0.90 (0.02-0.90)	No	Additive - promotes strong teeth
Total Coliform (pres/abs)	0	5% <sup>2</sup>	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine (ppm)	[4]	[4]	1.22 (0.33-1.22)	1.36 (1.00-1.36)	No	Additive used to control microbes
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.16	0.54 (0.04-0.54)	No	Natural deposit
Barium (ppm)	2	2	ND	0.006 (0.004-0.006)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethane (ppm)	NA	0.08	0.022 <sup>3</sup> (0.013-0.0263)	0.0140 <sup>3</sup> (ND-0.0140)	No	By-product of water chlorination
Haloacetic Acid (ppm)	NA	0.06	0.025 <sup>3</sup> (0.0142-0.0288)	0.0226 <sup>3</sup> (ND-0.0226)	No	By-product of water chlorination

### Inorganic Contaminants

Substance (Units)	MCLG or AL	MCL, TT or AL	Forest Grove Water (Low-High)	JWC (Low-High)	Violation?	Typical Source
HCCPD (ppm) (Hexachlorocyclopentadiene)	NA	0.050	ND	0.00014 (ND-0.00014)	No	Discharge from chemical factories/ Manufacture and disposal of pesticides
Copper <sup>5</sup> (ppm)	1.3	TT, AL=1.3	0.435 <sup>4</sup> (0.007-0.634)	NA (NA)	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead <sup>5</sup> (ppm)	0	TT, AL=0.015	0.004 <sup>4</sup> (ND-0.007)	NA (NA)	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NA	TT	0.82 (ND-0.82)	1.09 (ND-1.09)	No	Naturally present in the environment

#### Notes:

**1.** For systems that use conventional or direct filtration, at no time can turbidity (cloudiness of water) go higher than 1.0 NTU. **2.** No more than 5% samples total coliform-positive (TC-positive) in a month. **3.** Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA). **4.** 90th percentile. **5.** Data from 2017. Monitoring required every 3 years.

## City of Forest Grove Provides Exceptional Water For You!

The City of Forest Grove is pleased to present the **2019 Annual Water Quality Report**. This report provides information about the high-quality water and services delivered to you every day. We provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water and protect our water resources. Our water sources include the Watercrest Road Water Treatment Plant which receives water from the watershed south of Gales Creek and the Joint Water Commission (JWC) Water Treatment Plant located south of Forest Grove. The JWC Plant receives water

from the Barney and Scoggins Reservoirs through the Tualatin River system. Our water is safe, and meets federal and state requirements.

Please contact Brian Dixon, Treatment Plant Superintendent, with any questions or concerns at **(503) 992-3259**, or email [bdixon@forestgrove-or.gov](mailto:bdixon@forestgrove-or.gov).

#### VIEW ONLINE:

<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=00305>